



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040

Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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Contact- Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Hays Business Receives USDA Energy Program Funding **Grant Assistance Provided Under USDA Rural Development Program**

Hays, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today presented a ceremonial funding check of \$3,257 to 27th and Hall Laundry to assist the business undertake planned energy efficiency improvements. Agency funds will be leveraged with the owner's matching contribution of \$9,771. Funding for the business's energy improvements is being provided under USDA Rural Development's '*Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program*'.

USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks, in comments at the check presentation ceremony, remarked, "USDA Rural Development's '*Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program*' can provide financial assistance to businesses and agricultural producers to improve the efficiency of a present energy system or establish new renewable energy system. It is vital that our Nation expand renewable energy projects and improve the efficiency of current systems as all of us strive to make the United States more energy independent. USDA Rural Development is playing an active role in helping rural America meet this important national security and economic development goal."

During Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development announced financial assistance to eight rural businesses totaling over \$261,000 to assist in improving energy efficiency or establishing a renewable energy system. USDA Rural Development's '*Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program*' was established under the 2002 Farm Bill to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, along with supporting economic development in rural America.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life of rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, energy programs, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development's energy programs, or its other community and economic development programs, contact the USDA Rural Development Area office at Hays (785-628-3081), or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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